

# Science and Technical Support Section Work Activities Overview

*The Science Section work activities are structured in the following areas:*



### Aquatic Ecosystem:

The levels of contaminants, pathogens and nutrients in the aquatic environment, and their impact on sediments, aquatic species, human uses and human health



### Ecology:

Distribution and abundance of species and communities and the interaction between organisms and their environment



### Ecohydrology:

The status and health of lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater; determination of river and stream flows; including groundwater levels; and, their ability to sustain people, fish, wildlife and natural functions



### Habitat and Watershed Processes:


The status, protection, restoration, and sustainability of freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine and upland habitat

## The Science Section provides the following services:

- Long-term monitoring of environmental conditions to determine status, changed conditions and trends;
- Pre-construction, in-construction, and post-construction project effectiveness monitoring;
- Site characterization to support operational needs;
- Input to, and support of promulgation, amendment and implementation of environmental laws, policies, regulations and plans;
- Support for obtaining construction permits or conducting environmental reviews;
- Modeling of hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality, chemical mass balance and food web bioaccumulation;
- Evaluation of environmental assessments and other information for projects by other organizations;
- Inform, advise, review and support implementation of regional plans and policies;
- Provide public educational services;
- Develop, operate, and maintain computer applications for the storage, analysis, and distribution of environmental data;
- Scientific literature reviews and synthesis;
- Long-term monitoring of receiving waters of wastewater treatment plant and CSO outfall discharges in support of NPDES permits (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System);

- Monitoring for stormwater NPDES permit procurement and permit compliance; and
- Other regulatory compliance monitoring; e.g., swimming beaches, Urban Planned Developments, the Critical Areas Ordinance;
- Toxics and contaminants monitoring and assessments.

## About King County's Sci FYI

Published by:  **King County**  
Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources Division  
**Science and Technical Support Section**

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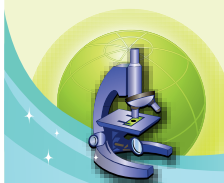
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**Designer:** Laurel Preston

**Available on the Web at:** <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wlr/science/newsletter.aspx>

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